

From: Gonzalo H. Iglesias
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 10:43pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The Justice Department and Microsoft have been tied up in a court battle for the past three years, and for the past six months, negotiations have taken place under the supervision of a court appointed mediator. Microsoft has, I think, been dealt with fairly in the settlement, and I do not believe further litigation is necessary. Unfortunately, nine plaintiff states involved in the case do not agree. They are currently seeking to overturn the settlement and bring further suit against Microsoft. This matter has been pending for far too long, unfortunately to no one's benefit except the highly rewarded lawyers to the detriment of the consumers like myself. Therefore I feel that it is about time for the case to come to a quick conclusion.

I believe Microsoft has the right to remain in control of its own software, but I believe the terms of the agreement are beneficial because they allow more freedom on the part of the user. By comparison, I look at other major Companies Ford, Mercedes Benz, Bacardi..etc. We could all say that these other companies hold a monopoly as well. Will all these companies be required to comply with policies being asked of Microsoft? Under the terms of the settlement, Microsoft will be required to disclose source code for use by its competitors. Microsoft has also agreed to reformat future versions of Windows so that the operating system will support non-Microsoft software. Now, computer users whose computers run on Windows will have the ability to configure Windows as they see fit. I am pleased that the suit did not result in Microsoft's division into smaller parts, and I believe that this settlement is in the best interest of both computer makers and the consumer.

Mr. Ashcroft, I do not believe further litigation is at all necessary. Such litigation will only increase not only the governments' costs which in the end is the taxpayers, like myself. Pushing the issue any further would be totally counterproductive and would be, I believe, ultimately detrimental to the economy, the technology industry, and the American people. I urge you to support the settlement.

Sincerely,

Signed,
Gonzalo H. Iglesias

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